KING BLACK
SPIDER-MAN
PETER DAVID
GREG LAND
JAY LEISTEN
FRANK D'ARMATA
MARVEL
2
LAND

AFTER THE FIRST SECRET WARS, PETER PARKER RETURNED HOME TO NEW YORK CITY WITH A BRAND-NEW COSTUME HE THOUGHT HAD BEEN CRAFTED BY ALIEN TECHNOLOGY. IT COULD RESPOND TO HIS EVERY THOUGHT, SHAPE-SHIFT TO MIMIC HIS CIVILIAN CLOTHING AND EVEN GENERATE A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS SUPPLY OF HIS UNIQUE WEBBING!

NOW IN HIS SLEEK ALL-BLACK COSTUME, PETER PARKER BALANCES HIS PERSONAL LIFE, HIS PHOTOGRAPHY JOB FOR *THE DAILY BUGLE* AND HIS SUPER-HEROICS AS HE SWINGS THROUGH THE CITY AS THE AMAZING, FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN!

THOUGH, UNBEKNOWNST TO PETER, HIS ALIEN COSTUME MAY BE MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE...

SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN

THE SWORD AND THE SPIRIT
PART TWO

AFTER ALISTAIR SMYTHE WAS CONSUMED BY A MYSTERIOUS BLACK SPECTER CALLING HIMSELF **MISTER E**, THE RESULTING ABOMINATION TRANSFORMED ALL OTHER HUMANS IN THE RAVENCROFT INSTUTUTE, INCLUDING PETER PARKER'S COWORKER NED LEEDS, INTO SHADOW CREATURES!

MEANWHILE, **UATU THE WATCHER** WAS CAPTURED AND PROBED BY THE TIME-TRAVELING AVENGERS VILLAIN **KANG THE CONQUEROR**! HOWEVER, KANG'S MACHINES COULDN'T HANDLE THE OVERLOAD OF UATU'S POWER, WHICH CAUSED KANG'S SHIP TO EXPLODE AND LEFT HIM ADRIFT IN SPACE ...UNTIL **ROCKET RACOON** SCOOPED HIM UP!

BACK ON EARTH, SPIDER-MAN WAS FACING DOWN MISTER E WHEN THE BLACK KNIGHT ARRIVED TO AID SPIDER-MAN IN HIS FIGHT AGAINST THE SHADOW CREATURES!

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RAVENCROFT. INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.
SO THIS HAS BEEN A DAY.
WEIRD SHADOW CREATURES INVADE RAVENCROFT, ONE SNATCHES NED LEEDS, THE SUN'S ECLIPSING FOR NO REASON, AND THE ONLY AVENGER TO HELP ME IS *THE BLACK KNIGHT*, A LATTER DAY DON QUIXOTE WITH A SWORD AND AN ATTITUDE.
WHERE THE HECK ARE THEY GOING?!
OBVIOUSLY! WHAT ELSE YOU GOT?
THEY'RE SCATTERING.
THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IT.
GEEZ, THEY LET ANYBODY INTO THE AVENGERS.
GEEZ, THEY LET ANYBODY INTO THE AVENGERS.
THANKS A LOT.
SORRY. DIDN'T REALIZE I SAID THAT OUT LOUD.

OKAY, LET'S REVIEW: THE SUN'S BEING ECLIPSED, AND WE DON'T KNOW WHY.
WE'VE NO IDEA WHERE THIS MISTER E CHARACTER CAME FROM OR WENT TO.
AND I HAVE NO IDEA HOW YOU KNEW TO COME HERE.
THAT LAST ONE I CAN ANSWER.
I HAD A VISION OF MERLIN. HE WARNED ME TO COME HERE.
MERLIN...
LIKE...
THE MAGICIAN?
THAT'S CORRECT.
WHAT, DID HE JUST APPEAR OUT OF NOWHERE?
YES.
CRIPES!!!

I APOLOGIZE IF I STARTLED YOU.
IF?!
GOD, SO THAT'S WHAT IT FEELS LIKE WHEN YOUR HEART SKIPS A BEAT.
THIS IS AN UNUSUAL DISPLAY OF YOUR POWER, WIZARD. BACK AT AVENGERS MANSION, YOU CAME TO ME IN A DREAM.
MATTERS ARE PROGRESSING FAR TOO RAPIDLY FOR ME TO WAIT FOR YOU TO BE ASLEEP AGAIN.
YOU MUST RETURN TO THE MANSE IMMEDIATELY. YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUIRED THERE.
AS FOR YOU, YOU MUST RETURN TO THE OFFICE OF THE... WHAT IS THE WORD?
NEWSPAPER.
THE BUGLE? WHY?
"THE SHADOW YOU CALL NED LEEDS IS HEADING THERE TO DISPATCH ITS OWNER.
"APPARENTLY BEING POSSESSED UNLEASHES THOSE SENTIMENTS ONE ORDINARILY KEEPS HIDDEN."
HOLY CRAP, HE'S GONNA KILL JAMESON. I HAVE TO STOP HIM!
I...DO HAVE TO STOP HIM, RIGHT?
YES!!!
KIDDING, KIDDING.
SHEESH.

DAILY BUGLE
DAMMIT, TYSON! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MY SCIENCE EDITOR! HOW CAN YOU NOT KNOW WHY THERE'S AN ECLIPSE?!
SCREW IT! YOU'RE FIRED! GET OUT OF MY OFFICE!
DID YOU JUST FIRE NEIL?
HE WAS USELESS. PLUS I NEVER TRUSTED HIM. WHAT KIND OF MIDDLE NAME IS "DEGRASE" ANYWAY?
WE'RE WELL RID OF HIM. HE'LL WIND UP TEACHING SCIENCE TO EIGHTH GRADERS, MARK ME.
AND WHERE THE HELL ARE LEEDS AND PARKER?
JONAH, RAVENCROFT IS NEAR WESTCHESTER.
IT'S AN HOUR AND A HALF RIDE THERE, AT LEAST. BE REASONABLE.
"ARE YOU SAYING I'M NOT REASONABLE? I'M ALWAYS REASONABLE.
"MISS BRANT!"
YES, MR. JAMESON?
WOULD YOU SAY I'M REASONABLE?
NO NEED, SIR. YOU SAY IT ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US.
SEE?!

NO... STOP IT...
GET OUT OF...MY HEAD...
I WON'T... DO IT...I WON'T--
YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO.
NO... IT'S NOT... TRUE...
YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM ME. I KNOW WHAT YOU KEEP BOTTLED UP.
I KNOW WHO AND WHAT YOU REALLY ARE.
YOU... YOU DON'T... YOU--
DENIAL WILL GET YOU NOWHERE. NOW HOLD STILL...
THERE. THAAAT'S BETTER.

TO HELL WITH THIS! I DON'T CARE IF HE IS THE PRESIDENT!
SIR, YOU'RE RUNNING LATE FOR THE EDITORIAL MEETING.
I'M NEVER LATE. IT STARTS WHEN I GET THERE.
ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES WHEN YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF--
MISS BRANT, WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST!

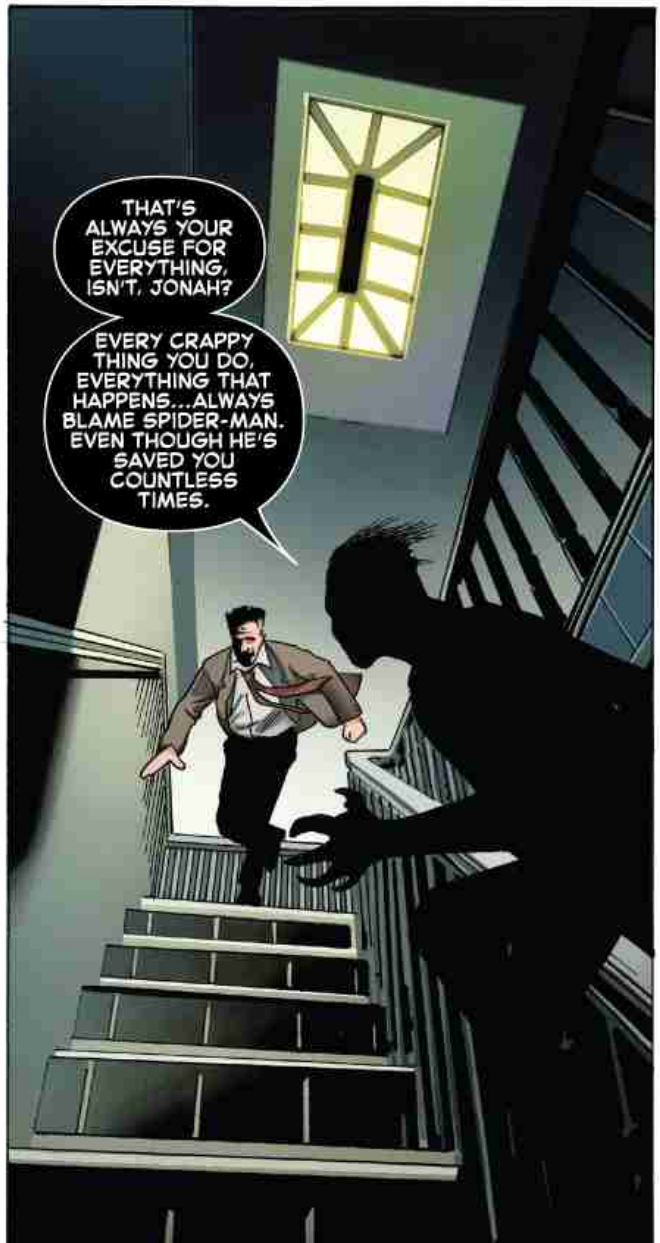
CRASH
WHAT THE--?!
HI, JONAH. LET'S TALK.
N-NED--?!
HI, HONEY.
I'M HOME.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, JONAH? WE HAVE SO MUCH TO CATCH UP ON.

JONAH! IS SOMETHING WRONG? WHAT WAS THAT CRASH?
ANSWER TO BOTH IS RIGHT BEHIND ME!

HOLY--!

HUFF HUFF

I...I DON'T KNOW...WHAT HAPPENED...
...BUT SOMEHOW...
...I KNOW IT'S SPIDER-MAN'S FAULT!


THAT'S ALWAYS YOUR EXCUSE FOR EVERYTHING, ISN'T, JONAH?
EVERY CRAPPY THING YOU DO, EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS...ALWAYS BLAME SPIDER-MAN. EVEN THOUGH HE'S SAVED YOU COUNTLESS TIMES.

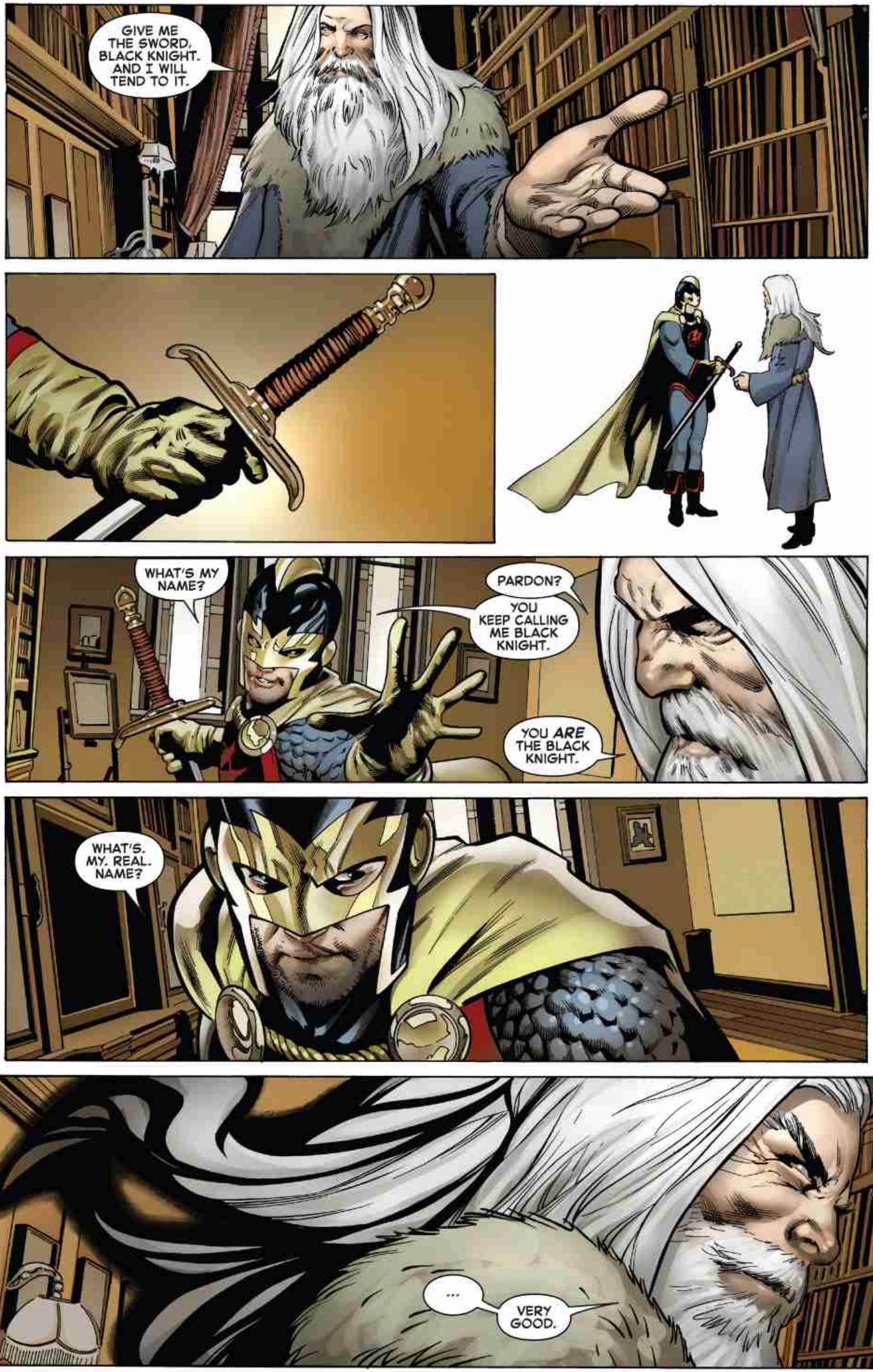
ACCCKKK!
TOO BAD HE'S NOT HERE TO RESCUE YOU THIS TIME!

KRAAASH

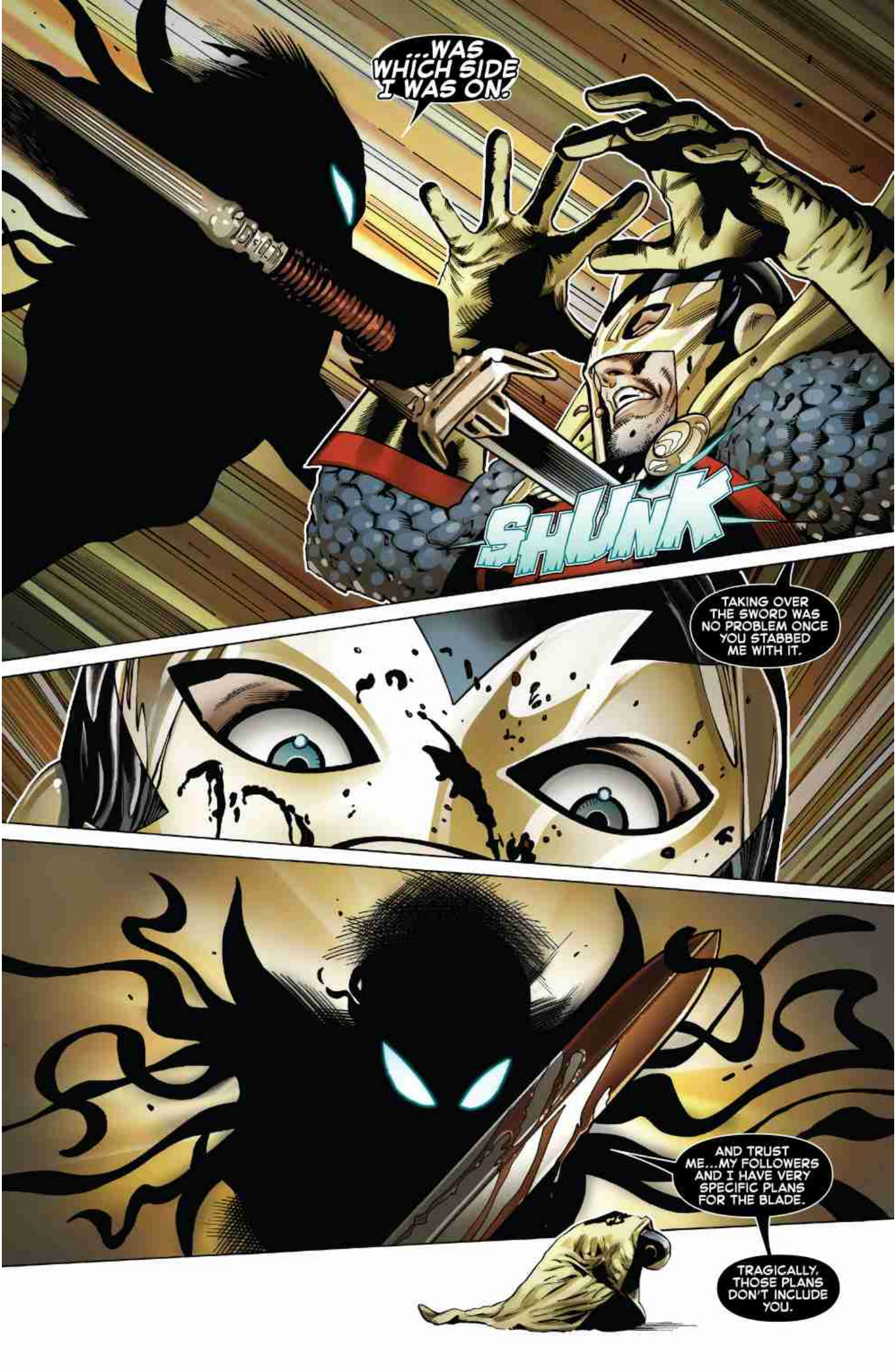
VRAAM
I'M BILLING YOU FOR THAT SKYLIGHT!

AVENGERS MANSION.
OKAY, MERLIN. I'M BACK. SHOW YOURSELF.
IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BLACK KNIGHT.
WISH I COULD SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM. WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE SUN?
A GREAT EVIL...
THAT ONLY YOUR SWORD CAN DETER.
THE *EBONY BLADE?* HOW?
THERE IS A GREAT EVIL ABROAD. THE EBONY BLADE MAY WELL BE ONE OF THE ONLY WEAPONS IN EXISTENCE THAT CAN DEFEAT IT.
DOES THIS GREAT EVIL HAVE A NAME?
IT IS CALLED...
KNULL.

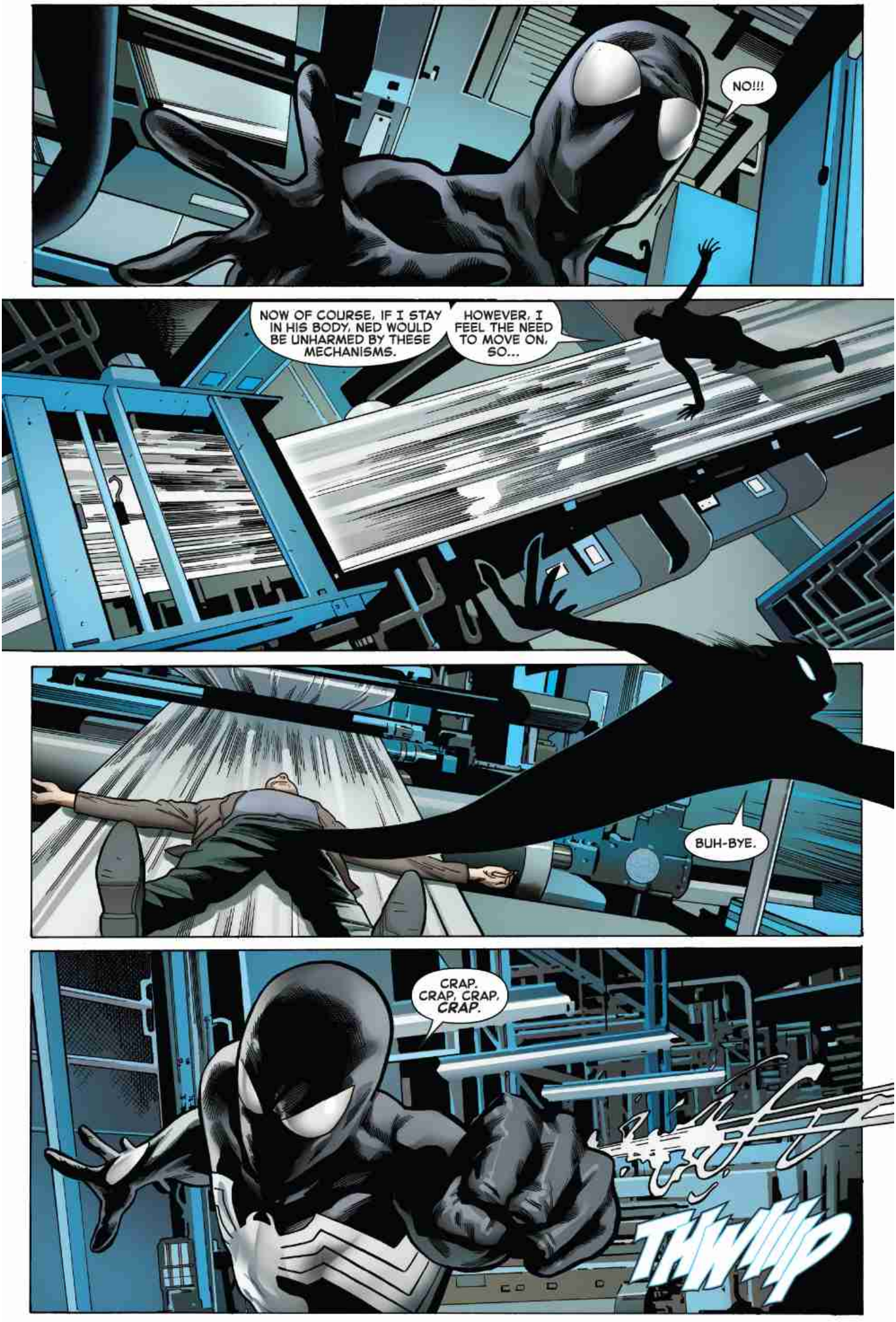
"HIS FOLLOWERS SIMPLY CALL HIM GOD.
"HE IS A CREATURE OF IMMENSE POWER AND POSES A THREAT TO ALL OF TIME AND SPACE.
"AT PRESENT HE IS CONTAINED, BUT ONE DAY THAT CONTAINMENT WILL END AND HE WILL ROAM FREE, LEAVING DESTRUCTION IN HIS WAKE.
I HAVE FORESEEN IT. HIS LIBERATION IS INEVITABLE.
"BUT IT IS MY BELIEF THAT HE IS VULNERABLE TO THE EBONY BLADE. THAT MAY WELL BE THE KEY TO DEFEATING HIM.
"I CAN INCREASE THE MAGIC IT ALREADY CONTAINS AND ELEVATE IT TO THE POINT OF BEING AN ABSOLUTELY LETHAL WEAPON AGAINST HIM."


GIVE ME THE SWORD, BLACK KNIGHT. AND I WILL TEND TO IT.
WHAT'S MY NAME?
PARDON?
YOU KEEP CALLING ME BLACK KNIGHT.
YOU ARE THE BLACK KNIGHT.
WHAT'S. MY. REAL. NAME?
...
VERY GOOD.

SHADOW CREATURE! SHOW YOURSELF!
I SAID SHOW YOURSELF, YOU CRAVEN--
NOW, NOW...
THERE'S NO NEED TO HURL INSULTS.
EVERYTHING I TOLD YOU WAS *TRUE*.
ALL I LIED ABOUT...


...WAS WHICH SIDE I WAS ON.
SHUNK
TAKING OVER THE SWORD WAS NO PROBLEM ONCE YOU STABBED ME WITH IT.
AND TRUST ME...MY FOLLOWERS AND I HAVE VERY SPECIFIC PLANS FOR THE BLADE.
TRAGICALLY, THOSE PLANS DON'T INCLUDE YOU.

MEANWHILE...
HOLY--!
HOW ARE YOU ABLE TO KEEP TOUCHING ME?!
CLEAN LIVING AND FANCY FOOTWORK.
NO, IT'S MORE THAN THAT.
YOU'RE ONE OF US. CAN'T YOU FEEL IT? WE ARE KIN.
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO WAIT AROUND FOR YOU TO REALIZE IT.


NO!!!
NOW OF COURSE, IF I STAY IN HIS BODY, NED WOULD BE UNHARMED BY THESE MECHANISMS.
HOWEVER, I FEEL THE NEED TO MOVE ON, SO...
BUH-BYE.
CRAP, CRAP, CRAP, CRAP.
THWIP

W-what...? How did--?
WHOA!!!
YOU OKAY, NED?
FINE... I'M FINE... I'M...
AVENGERS MANSION! THAT... THAT THING THAT TOOK ME OVER...
IT'S HEADING TO AVENGERS MANSION!
WHAT? ARE YOU SURE?
YEAH. IT WAS INSIDE MY HEAD, BUT I WAS INSIDE ITS AS WELL. TWO-WAY STREET.
OH NO... THE BLACK KNIGHT...
IT WAS A TRAP...

"...AND THE BLACK KNIGHT SPRUNG IT."
Unhh...
FOUND HIM!
Oh... perfect...
DON'T MOVE.
Shut up...
WHAT PART OF "DON'T MOVE" DIDN'T YOU GET?

Oh... good...I'm just hallucinating...was worried...for a sec--
THUD
HE DEAD? NOT THAT FAMILIAR WITH HUMANS, SO IT'S KINDA HARD TO TELL.
MY SENSORS INDICATE NO. HE'S BARELY HANGING ON, THOUGH.
GOOD. LET'S GET HIM OUTTA HERE...
...BEFORE THINGS GET WORSE.
NEXT ISSUE: THINGS GET WORSE! BE HERE IN THIRTY, TRUE BELIEVERS!

KING IN BLACK

NEXT:
SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN: KING IN BLACK #3

CHECKLIST

- [x] **KING IN BLACK #1**
  THE BEGINNING OF THE END!
- [x] **ATLANTIS ATTACKS #5**
  THE AGENTS OF ATLAS THINK THEY'RE PREPARED FOR ANY THREAT, BUT NOTHING COULD PREPARE THEM FOR WHAT'S COMING!
- [x] **THE UNION #1**
  AS KNULL'S FORCES UNLEASH FURY AROUND THE WORLD, WILL ONE HERO IN THE UNITED KINGDOM PAY THE ULTIMATE PRICE?
- [x] **VENOM #31**
  1,454 FEET... A LONG WAY DOWN.
- [x] **KING IN BLACK: NAMOR #1**
  PAST AND PRESENT COLLIDE IN THE UNDERSEA KINGDOM OF ATLANTIS!
- [x] **BLACK CAT #1**
  THE CAT IN BLACK TAKES ON THE KING IN BLACK, STAGING THE MOST DARING HEIST OF HER CAREER!
- [x] **SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN: KING IN BLACK #2**
  SPIDER-MAN TRAVELS THE GALAXY WITH A TALKING RACCOON FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME!
- [x] **KING IN BLACK: IMMORTAL HULK #1**
  KNULL'S ARRIVED DURING THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR. TOO BAD THE HULK ISN'T PREPARED FOR EITHER!
- [ ] **KING IN BLACK #2** (PICTURED)
- [ ] **SPIDER-WOMAN #7**
  TRAPPED ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE MILKY WAY, JESSICA DREW FINDS HERSELF CAUGHT IN KNULL'S DESTRUCTIVE WAKE!
- [ ] **KING IN BLACK: IRON MAN/DOCTOR DOOM #1**
  THE MEN CLAD IN METAL FACE OFF AGAINST A HOLLY JOLLY HORROR!
- [ ] **KING IN BLACK: NAMOR #2**
  MORE SECRETS FROM NAMOR'S PAST STAND REVEALED AFTER THE REVELATIONS OF *KING IN BLACK #2!*

ZONE